

THE TRIUMPH
OF TIME.

WHEREIN IS DISCOVERED BY
A PLEASANT HISTORIE, THAT
although by the meanes of sinister Fortune,
TRUTH may be concealed, yet by TIME
in spite of Fortune, it is most ma-
nifestly Reuealed.

Pleasant for age to auoid drowisie thoughts, pro-
fitable for Youth, to eschue other wanton Pastimes;
and bringing to both a desired Content.

Temporis filia, Veritas.

By Robert Greene, Maister of Arts in Cambridge.

Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.



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LONDON,

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by Iohn Tap, at his shop, neere S. Magnus corner. 1614.

TO THE GENTLE- MEN READERS, HEALTH.



He paultry Poet APHRANIUS being blamed for troubling the Emperour TRAIAN, with so many Doating Poemes: aduentured not withstanding, still to present him with Rude and homely Verses, excusing himselfe with the courtesie of the Emperour, which did as friendly accept, as hee fondly offered.

So Gentlemen, If any condemne my rashnesse, for troubling your Eares with so many vnlearned Pamphlets, I will straight shrowd my selfe vnder the shadow of your Courtesies, and with Aphranus, lay the blame on you; As well on you for friendlie Reading them, as on my selfe fondlie Penning them. Hoping, though fond, curious, or rather currisht Back-bytters breathe out sladerous speeches: Yet the courteous Readers (whom I feare to offend) will requite my Trauell, at the least with Silence: And in this Hope, I rest: wishing you health & happines.

Robert Greene.

TO THE RIGHT HONOVABLE, GEORGE

*Clyfford Earle of Cumberland;
Robert Greene wisheth increase
of Honour and vertue.*



HE Rascians (Right Honourable) when by long gazing against the Sunne, they become halfe blinde, recover their sights by looking on the blacke Lead-Stone: Unicorns being gluttied with brousing on roots of Lyoras, sharpen their stomackes, with crashing bitter grasse.

Alexander vouchsafed as well to smile at the crooked picture of Vulcan as to wonder at the curious counterfeite of Venus. The minde is sometimes delighted as much with tinall trifles, as with sumptuous Triumphs; and as well pleated with hearing of Pans homely fancies, as of Hercules renowned Labours.

Silly Baucis could not serue Iupiter in a siluer plate, but in a wodden-dish. All that honor Esculapius decke not his shrine with Iewels. Apollo giues Oracles, as well to the poore man for his mite, as to the rich man for his treasure. The stone Echites is not so much liked for the colour, as for vertue: and gifts are not to be measured by the worth, but by the will. Alifon that vnskilfull Painter of Greece, aduentured to giue vnto Daedalus the selfe of Pallas, so roughly shadowed, as hee smyled more at the follie of the Man, then at the imperfection of the Art. So I present vnto your Honour The Triumph of Time.

rudely finished, as I feare your Honopr will rather strowe at my impudencie, then laugh at my Ignorance: But I hope my willing minde shall excuse my slender skill, and your Honours courtesie shadow my rashnes.

They which feare the byting of *Vipers*, doe carrie in their hands the plumes of a *Phoenix*. *Phidrus* drew *Ulican* sitting in a chayre of *Yuoric*. *Casars*-Crowe durst neuer crye *Aue*, but when she was peaked on the *Capitoll*. And I seeke to shrowd this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your Honours Patronage, doubting the dint of such inuicomed-*Vipers*, as seeke with theyr slanderous reproches to carpe at all, being oftentimes most vnlearned of all: and assure my selfe, that your Honours renowned valour, and vertuous disposition, shall be sufficient defence to protect me from the poysoned tengues of such scorning *Sycophants*; hoping that as *Jupiter* vouchsafed to lodge in *Philemons* thatched Cottage; & *Phillip* of *Macedon*, to take a bunch of grapes of a Countrey-Peasant: So I hope your Honour measuring my worke by my will, and weighing more the minde, then the matter, will (when you haue cast a glaunce at this toy) with *Minerva*, vnder your golden Target, couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope I rest, Wishing vnto you and the vertuous Countesse your Wife, such happy successe as your Honours can desire or imagine.

Your Lordships most dutifull

to commaund,

Robert Greene.

N.B. This History is the Foundation of Shakespeares Winter Tale



THE HISTORIE OF DORASTVS AND FAWNIA.



Amongst all the passions wherewith humane mindes are perplered, there is none that so galleth with restlesse despayre, as that infectious soze of *zealousie*: For all other griefs are eyther to bee appeased with sensible perswasions, to be cured with wholsome Counsell, to be relieved in want, or by tract of time to be trogne out, *zealousie* onely excepted, which is scured with suspicious doubts, and pinching mistrust, that who so soke by friendly counsell to rase out this hellish passion, it smyth with suspecteth that he giueth this aduice to couer his owne guiltinesse. *Pea* who so is pinched with this restles torment, doubteth all, distrusteth himselfe, is alwaies frozen with feare, and fired with suspicion, hauing that wherein consisteth all his ioy, to be the breader of his miserie. *Pea* it is such an heauie enemy to that holy estate of *matrimonie*, sowing betwene the married couples such deadly seedes of secret hatred, as loue being once rased out by spitefull distrust, thereof ensueth bloody reuenge, as this ensuing history manifestly proueth: wherein *Pandosto* (furiously intensed by a causelesse *zealousie*) procured the death of his most louing and loyal wife, and his owne endlesse sorrow and misery.

In the country of *Bohemia*, there reigned a King called *Pandosto*, whose fortunate successe in warres against his foes, and bountifull curtesie towards his friendes in peace, made him to bee greatly feared and loued of all men. This *Pandosto* had to wife a Ladie called *Bellaria*, by birth royal, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: so that it was hard to iudge, whether her beautie, fortune, or vertue, was the greatest

The History of

greatest commendations. These two linked together in perfect love, led their lives with such fortunate content, that their subjects greatly rejoyced to see their quiet disposition. They had not bin married long, but fortune (willing to increase their happiness) lent them a Sonne, so adorned with the gifts of nature, as the perfection of the Child greatly augmented the love of the Parents, and the joy of their Commons: in so much that the Bohemians to shew their inward loves by outward actions, made Bonfires and triumphs throughout all the Kingdome, appointing trusts and Turneyes for the honour of their young Prince: whither resorted not onely his Nobles, but also divers Kings and Princes which were his Neighbours, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto, and to obtaine fame and glory by their prowess and valour. Pandosto whose minde was fraught with Princely liberalitie, entertained the Kings, Princes and Noblemen with such submissive curtesie, and magnificentall bountie, that they all saw how willing hee was to gratifie their good wills, making a generall feast for his subjects, which continued by the space of twentie dayes; at which time the Juils and Turneyes were kept to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This solemne triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leave of Pandosto and Bellaria, the young sonne (who was called Garinter) was nursed up in the house, to the great joy and content of the Parents. Fortune envious of such happy successe, willing to shew some signe of her inconstancy, turned her wheel, and darkened their bright Sunne of prosperitie with the mistie clouds of mishap and miserie. For it so happened that Egistus King of Syclia, who in his youth had been brought up with Pandosto, desirous to shew that neither trade of time nor distance of place could diminish their former friendship, provided a fleet of ships and sailed into Bohemia, to visit his old friend and companion: who he being of his arrivall went himselfe in person and his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great traine of Lords and Ladies, to meet Egistus: and espying him, alighted from his horse, embraced him very lovingly, protesting, that nothing in the world could have happened more acceptable to him then his coming, wishing his wife welcome his old friend and acquaintance: who (to shew how she liked him

Dorantus and Ravina.

him whom her husband loved) entertained him with such familiar curtesie, as Egistus perceivd himselfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus saluted and embraced each other, they mounted againe on horse-backe, and rode toward the Citie, devising and recounting, how being children they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was received with triumphes and shewes, in such sorte, that he marvelled how on so small a warning, they could make such preparation. Passing the streets thus with such rare sights, they rode on to the Pallace: where Pandosto entertained Egistus & his Syclians with such banquetting and sumptuous cheate, so royally, as they had ail cause to commend his Princely liberalitie: yea, the very basest slave that was knowne to come from Syclia was used with such curtesie, that Egistus might easily perceiue, how both he and his were honoured for his friends sake. Bellaria (who in her time was the flower of curtesie) willing to shew how unfainely she loved her husband, by his friends entertainment, used him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance betrayed how her minde was affected towards him: oftentimes committing her selfe into his bed-chamber, to see that nothing should be amis to mislike him. This honest familiaritie increased daily more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a Princely and bountifull minde, adorned with sundry and excellent qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous and courteous disposition, there grew such a secret uniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the company of the other: insomuch that when Pandosto was busied with such urgent affaires: that hee could not be present with his friend Egistus, Bellaria would walke with him in the garden, and there they two in private pleasant devises, would passe away their time to both their contents. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy passion entering the minde of Pandosto, drove him into sundry & doubtfull thoughts. First, he called to minde the beautie of his wife Bellaria, the comlineffe and braverie of his friend Egistus, thinking that love was above all Lawes, and therefore to bee stayed with no law: that it was hard to put fire and flare together without burning, that their open pleasures might breede

his secret displeasure. He considered with himselfe, that Egistus was a man, & trust names lone: that his wife was a woman, and therefore subject to loue: and that where fancy forced, friendship was of no force. These & such like doubtfull thoughts a long time smothering in his stomacke, began at last to kindle in his minde a secret mistrust, which increased by suspicion, grew at last to flaming ieaalousie, that so tormented him as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions, and misconstrue of their too private familiaritie, iudging that it was not for honest affection, but for disordinate fancie: so as he began to watch them more narrowly, to see if he could get any true or certaine proofe to confirme his doubtfull suspicion. While thus he noted her looks and gestures, and suspected their thoughts & meanings, they two silly soules, who doubted nothing of this his trecherous intent, frequented daily each others company: which drew him into such a franticke passion, that he began to beate a secret hate to Egistus, and a lowering countenance to Bel-laria: who matuailing at such vnaccustomed frownes, began to cast beyond the moone, and to enter into a 1000. sundry thoughts, which way she should offend her husband: but finding in her selfe a cleare conscience, ceased to muse, till such time as she might finde fit opportunitie to demaund the cause of his dumps. In the meane time, Pandosto's minde was so far charged with ieaalousie that he no longer doubted, but was assured (as he thought) that his friend Egistus had entred a wrong point in his tables, and so had playd him false play. Whereupon desirous to reuenge so great an iniurie, he thought best to dissemble the grudge with a faire and frendly countenance: & so vnder the shape of a friend, to shew him the trickes of a foe. Deuising with himselfe a long time, how he might best put away Egistus, without suspicion of trecherous murder, concluded at last to poison him. Which opinion pleasing his humor, he became resolute in his determination: and the better to bring the matter to passe, he called to him his cup-bearer, with whom in secret he brake the matter: promising him for the performance thereof, to giue him 1000. crownes of yearly reuenues. His cup-bearer, either being of a good conscience, or willing for fashions sake to deny such a bloody request, beganne with great reasons to perswade Pandosto from

from his determinate mischief: shewing him what an offence murder was to the gods, how much vnaturall actes did more displease the heauens, then men: & that cruelle cruelty did seldom or neuer escape without reuenge: he layd before his face, that Egistus was his friend, a thing, & one that was come into his Kingdome; to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them: that he had, and did shew him a most friendly countenance; how Egistus was not onely honoured of his owne people by obedience, but also loued of the Bohemians for his cunctitie. And that if he now should, without any iust or manifest cause, poison him, it would not onely be a great dishonour to his estate, and a means to sow perpetuall enmity betwixt the Sycilians and the Bohemians, but also his owne subjects would repine at such treacherous cruelty. These and such like perswasions of Franion (for so was his Cup-bearer called) could no whit preuaile to dissuade him from his diuellish enterprize: but remaining resolute in his determination (his fury so fired with rage, as it could not be appeased with reason) he began with bitter taunts to taunt his man, and to lay before him two bailes; preferment and death: saying that if he would poison Egistus, he would aduance him to high dignities: if he refused to doe it of an obstinate minde, no torture should be too great to requite his disobedience. Franion, seeing that to perswade Pandosto any more, was but to strine against the streame, consented, as soon as opportunity would giue him leaue, to dispatch Egistus: wherewith Pandosto remained somewhat satisfied, hoping now he should be fully reuenged of such mistrusted iniuries, intending also as soon as Egistus was dead, to giue his wife a top of the same saluice, & to be rid of those which were the cause of his restless sorrow. And thus he liued in this hope, Franion being secret in his chamber, began to meditate with himselfe in these termes.

A Franion, treason is loued of many, but the Traitor hated of all: but trust offences may for a time escape without danger, but neuer without reuenge. Thou art seruant to a King, and must obey at command: yet Franion, against law and conscience, it is not good to resist a tyrant with armes, nor to please an vnjust King with obedience. What shalt thou doe? Folly refused gold,

gold, and fzenle preferment; wisdome (sely after dignity, and counsell) keepeth to; gaine. Egistus is a stranger to the, and Pandosto thy eneraigne: thou hast little cause to respect the one, and oughtest to have great care to obey the other. Thinke this Franion, that a pound of gold is worth a tunne of Lead, great gifts are little Goods: and preferment to a meane man is a whetstone to courage; there is nothing sweeter then promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though most count thee a traitor, so all call thee rich. Dignity (Franion) aduanceth thy posteritie, and euill report can but hurt thy selfe. Know this, where Eagles builde, Falcons in y prey: where Lyons haunt, Foxes may steale. Kings are knowne to commaunde, seruants are blamelesse to consent: feare not thou then to list at Egistus, Pandosto shall beare the burthen. Weabut Franion, conscience is a worme that euer biteth, but neuer ceaseth: that which is rubb'd with the stone Galactites will neuer bee hat. Fleth dipped in the Sea Eggeum, will neuer bee swate: the heaue Trigon, being once bit with an Aspis, neuer groweth, and conscience once staped with innocent bloud, is alwaies tyed to a guiltie remorse. Prefer thy content before riches, and a cleare minde before dignity: so being pure, thou shalt haue rich peace, or else rich, thou shalt enioy disquiet.

Franion hauing muttered out these or such like words, seeing either he must die with a cleare minde, or liue with a spotted conscience: hee was so cumbered with diuers cogitations that hee could take no rest: untill at last he determined to breake the matter to Egistus: but fearing that the King should either suspect or beare of such matters: he concealed the device till opportunity would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtfull feare, in an evening he went to Egistus lodging, and desirous to breake with him of certaine affaires that touched the King, after all there commaunded out of the Chamber, Franion made manifest the whole conspiracie which Pandosto had devised against him, desiring Egistus not to account him a Traytor, for betraying his Maisters counsaile, but to thinke that he did it for conscience: hoping that although his Maister inflamed wth rage, or incensed by some sinister reportes, or slanderous speeches,

speeches, had imagined such canselesse mischief: yet when time should pacifie his anger, and try those talebearers but flattering Parasites, then he would count him as a faithfull seruant that with such care had kept his Maisters credit. Egistus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his tale, but a quailing feare possessed all his limmes, thinking that there was some treason wrought, and that Franion did but shadow his craft with these false colours: wherefore he began to waue in choller, and saide that he doubted not Pandosto, sith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet bene any breach of amity: he had not sought to invade his lands, to conspire with his enemies, to discommod his Subjects from their allegiance: but in word and thought he rested his at all times: he knew not therefore any cause, that should impue Pandosto to take his death, but suspected it to be a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him to odds. Franion staying him in the midst of his talke, told him, that to day with Princes was with the swannes to sing against their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any such mischief, it might haue bene better brought to passe then by reuealing the conspiracie: therefore his Maister did ill to misconstrue of his good meaning, sith his intent was to hinder treason, not to become a traytor: and to confirme his promises, if it pleased his Maister to fly into Sicilia for the safegarde of his life, hee would goe with him: and if then he found not such a paradise to be pretended, let him imagine treacherie to be repayed with most monstrous torments. Egistus hearing the solempne protestation of Franion, beganne to consider, that in Love and Kingdome, neither faith, nor laie is to be respected: doubting that Pandosto thought by his death to destroy his men, and with speed waite to invade Sicilia: These and such doubtles thoughtly weighed, he gave great thanks to Franion, promising if hee might with life returne to Syracuse, that hee would create him a Duke in Sicilia: craving his Counsell how hee might escape out of the Countie. Franion, who hauing some small skill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Ports and hauens, and knew every danger in the Sea, loyning in counsell with the Maister of Egistus Paule, rigged all their

ships, and setting them a float, let them drift anchor, to be in the
more requies, when time and wind should serve. Fortune al-
though blind, yet by chance favouring this just cause, sent them
within five daies a good gale of wind: which Franion seeing fit
for their purpose, to put Pandosto out of suspicion, the night be-
fore they should saile, he went to him, and promised, that the next
day he would put the deuise in practise, so he had got such a for-
cible payson, as the very smell thereof would procure subtain death.
Pandosto was ioyfull to heare this good newes, & thought every
houre a day, till he might be glutted with bloody reuenge: but
his suit had but ill successe. For Egistus fearing that delay might
be his danger, and willing that the grasse should not be cut from
under his feete, taking bagge and baggage by the helpe of Fra-
nion, conveyed himselfe and his men out at a posterne gate of the
Cittie, so secretly, and speedily, that without any suspicion they
got to the sea shore: where, with many a bitter curse taking
their leane of Bohemia, they went aboard weighing their Ar-
mour, and hoisting saile, they passed as fast as wind & sea would
permit towarde Syccilia: Egistus being a ioyfull man that he had
safely past such treacherous perils. But as they were quietly
floating on the sea, so Pandosto and his Cittizens were in an op-
reare; for seeing that the Syccilians without taking their leane,
were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared some treason, and
the King thought that without question his suspicion was true,
seeing the Cap-bearer had betrayed the sum of his secret pre-
sence. Whereupon he began to imagine that Franion and his
wife Bellaria had conspired with Egistus, and that the secret
departure they bare him, was the onely meane of his secret de-
parture: in so much that incensed with rage, he commanded
that his wife should be carried straight to prison, untill they
heard further of his pleasure. The Guardes unwilling to lay
their hands on such a vertuous Princeesse, and yet fearing the
Kings fury, went very sorrowfull to fulfill their charge: com-
ming to the Quenes lodging, they found her playing with her
young Sonne Garinter: vnto whom with teares doing the mes-
sage, Bellaria lamented at such a hard censure, and finding her
clear conscience a sure advocate to pleade in her cause, went to
the prison most willingly: where with sighes and teares, she
past

past away the time, till the might come to her triall.

But Pandosto whose reason was suppressed with rage, and
whose babied solite was incensed with fury: seeing Franion
had betrayed his secrets, and that Egistus might well be ray-
led on, but not reuenged: determined to wreake all his wrath
on poore Bellaria. He therefore caused a generall proclamation to
be made through all his Realme, that the Quene & Egistus had
by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed most incestuous a-
dultery, but also had conspired the Kings death: whereupon
the Traitor Franion was fled away with Egistus, and Bellaria
was most iustly imprisoned. This proclamation being once
blazed through the country, although the vertuous disposition
of the Quene did halfe discredit the contents, yet the suddaine &
speedy passage of Egistus, and the secret departure of Franion, in-
duced them (the circumstances thoroughly considered) to thinke
that both the proclamation was true, and the King greatly in-
iured: yet they pittied her case, as sorrowfull, that so good a Lady
should be crossed with such aduerso Fortune. But the King,
whose reflexe rage would remit no pittie, thought that al-
though he might sufficiently requite his wifes falshood with
the bitter plague of pinching penury, yet his minde should ne-
uer be glutted with reuenge, till he might haue fit time and op-
portunity to repay the trechery of Egistus with a totall iniury.
But a curst Cote hath oftentimes short hoines, and a willing
minde but a weak arme. For Pandosto although he felt that
reuenge was a spur to warre, and that enug alwaies proffe-
reth sale, yet he saw, that Egistus was not onely of great puis-
sance and prowesse to withstand him, but had also many Kings
of his alliance to ayde him, if neede should serue: for he married
the Emperours daughter of Russia. These and the like conside-
rations something daunted Pandosto his courage, so that hee
was content rather to put up a manifest iniurie with peace, then
hunt after reuenge, dishonour, and losse: determining since Egistus
had escaped scot-free, that Bellaria should pay for all at an unre-
sonable price.

Remarking thus resolute in his determination, Bellaria
continuing still in prison, and hearing the contents of the Pro-
clamation, knowing that her minde was neuer touched with

such affection, nor that Egistus had euer offered her such discourse, would gladly haue come to her answere, that both she might haue knowne her iust accusers, and cleared her selfe of that guiltlesse crime.

But Pandosto was so inflamed with rage, and infected with Ielousie, as he would not vouchsafe to heare her, nor admit any iust excuse: so that shee was faine to make a vertue of her neede, and with patience to heare those heauie iniuries. As thus shee lay crossed with calamities (a great cause to increase her griefe) she found her selfe quicke with childe: which as soone as she felt stirre in her body, she burst forth into bitter teares, exclaiming against fortune in these termes.

ALas Bellaria, how vnfortunate art thou, because fortunate: Better thou hadst bene borne a beggar, then a Prince, so shouldst thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now shee sporteth her selfe with thy plentie. Ah happy life, where poore thoughts, and meane desires liue in secure content, not fearing Fortune because too low. For Fortune, thou least knowest Bellaria that care is a companion to honor, not to pouertie: that high Cedars are scathed with tempests, when low shrubs are not touched with the winde: pretious Diamonds are cut with the file, when despised pibbles lye safe in the sand. Delphos is sought to by Princes, not beggars: and Fortunes Altars smoke with kings presents, not with poore mens gifts. Wappte mee such Bellaria, that curse Fortune for contempt, not feare: and may with they were, not sorrows they haue borne. Thou art a Princesse Bellaria, and yet a prisoner: borne to the one by descent, assigned to the other by dispite: accused without cause, and therefore oughtest to dye without care: for patience is a shield against Fortune, and a guiltlesse minde yieldeth not to sorrow. Ah but in amy galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Report is plumed with times feathers, and Canie oftentimes soundeth flames Trumpet: the suspected adultery shall fly in the ayre, and thy knowne vertues shall lye hid in the Earth; one whole turneth a whole face: and what is once spotted with infamy, can hardly be worne out with time. Die then Bellaria, Bellaria die: so if the Gods should say thou art guiltlesse, yet

yet ennie would heare the Gods, but neuer belene the Gods. Ah how lesse wretch, cease these tearmes: desperate thoughts are fit for them that feare shame, not for such as hope for credite. Pandosto hath darkened thy fame, but shall neuer discredite thy vertues. Suspicion may enter a false action, but proue shall neuer put in his plea: care not then for enuie, with report hath a blister on her tongue: and let sorrow baite them which offend, not touch thee that art faultlesse. But alas poore soule, how canst thou but sorrow? Thou art with childe, and by him, that in stead of kinde pittie, pinche h thee in cold prison. And with that, such gasping sighes so stopping her breath, that shee could not utter any more words, but wringing her hands, and gushing forth streames of teares, shee passed away the time with bitter complaints.

The Taylor pitting those her heauie passions, thinking that if the king knew she were with childe, he would somewhat appease his fury and release her from prison, went in all hast, and certified Pandosto, what the effect of Bellarias complaint was: who no sooner heard the Taylor say she was with childe, but as one possessed with a phazie, he rose vp in a rage, swearing that shee, and the bawd that she was withall should die, if the Gods themselves said not thinking that surely by computation of time, that Egistus and not he was father to the childe. This suspitious thought galled a fresh this halfe healed sore, in so much as he could take no rest, vntill he might mitigate his choller with a iust reuenge, which happened presently after. For Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire & beautifull daughter: which no sooner Pandosto hearde, but he determined that both Bellaria and the young infant should be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the kings cruell sentence, sought by perswasions to diuert him from his bloudie determination: laying befoze his face the innocencie of the childe, and vertuous disposition of his wife, how she had continually loued and honoured him so tenderly, that without due proue he could not, nor ought not to appeach her of that crime. And if she had faulted, yet it were more honourable to pardon with mercy, then to punish with extremity: and more kingly, to be commended of pittie, then accused of rigor: And

for the child, if he should punish it for the mothers offence, it were to strike against nature and iustice: and that unnatural actions doe more offend the Gods, then men: how causelesse cruelty, nor innocent blood neuer escapes without reuenge. These and such like reasons could not appease his rage, but he rethred resolute in this, that Bellaria being an Adulteresse, the child was a Bastard, and he would not suffer that such an infamous boy should call him Father. Yet at last (seeing his Noblemen were importunate upon him) he was content to spare the childes life, and yet to put it to a worse death. For he found out this deuise, that seeing (as he thought) it came by fortune, so he would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therefore he caused a little Cock-boat to be provided, wherein he meant to put the babe, and then send it to the mercies of the Seas, and the deuities. From this his Wordes in no wise could perswade him, but that he sent presently two of his guards to fetch the child: who being come to the prison, and with weeping teares recounting their Masters message: Bellaria no longer heard the rigorous resolution of her mercilesse husband, but she fell downe in a swoond, so that all thought she had bin dead: yet at last being come to her selfe, she cryed and scratched out in this wise.

ALas sweete infortunate babe, scarce borne, before ruined by fortune, would the day of thy birth had bene the terme of thy life: then shouldst thou haue made an ende to care, and preuented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deserue such hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too short for so sharpe a doome, but thy untimely death must pay thy Mothers Debts, and her guiltlesse crime must bee thy gaskly carke. And shalt thou sweete Babe be committed to Fortune, when thou art already spited by Fortune? Shall the Seas be thy harbour, and the hard boate thy cradle? Shall thy tender Mouth, in steade of sweete kisses, be nipped with bitter Azymes? Shall thou haue the whistling windees for thy Lullabie, and the salt Sea some in steade of sweete Milke? Alas, what destinies would assigne such hard hap? What Father would be so cruell? What Gods will not reuenge such rigo? Let me kisse thy lippes (sweete Infant) and wet thy tender chokes with my teares, and put this charge about

about thy little necke: that if fortune saue thee, it may helpe to succour thee. This, since thou must goe to surge in the gaskfull Seas, with a sorrowfull kisse I bid thee farewell, and I pray the Gods thou maist fare well. Such, and so great was her grieffe, that her vitall spirits being suppressed with sorrow, she fell againe downe into a trance, having her senses so softened with care, that after she was reuiued, yet shee lost her memorie, and lay for a great time without moving, as one in a trance. The guard left her in this perplexitie, and carried the child to the King: who quite deuoid of pittie, commaunded that without delay it should be put into the boate, hauing neither saile nor rudder to guide it, and so to be caried into the middest of the Sea, and there left to the winde and waves, as the destinies please to appoint. The very ship-men, seeing the swarte countenance of the yong babe, began to accuse the King of rigour, and to pittie the childes hard fortune: but feare constrained them to that, which their nature did abhorre: so that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boate, and with a few greene bolues made a homely cabin to shrowde it, as they could from winde and weather. Having thus trimmed a Boate, they tied it to a ship, and so haled it into the maine Sea, and then cut in sunder the corde: which they had no sooner done, but there arose a mightie tempest which tossed the little Boate so vehemently in the waves, that the ship-men thought it could not continue long without sinking: yea, the storme grew so great, that with much labour and perill they got to the shore. But, leauing the child to her fortunes, againe to Pandosto: who not yet glutted with sufficient reuenge, deuised which way he should best increase his wifes calamitie. But first assembling his Nobles and Counsellers, hee called her (for the more reproach) into open Court: where it was objected against her, that shee had committed adultery with Egistus, and conspired with Franion to poison Pandosto her husband. But their pretence being partly spied, she counselled them to flie away by night, for their better safetie. Bellaria (who standing like a prisoner at the barre, and feeling in her selfe a cleare conscience to withstand her false accusers) seeing that no lesse then death could pacifie her husbands wrath, was bold, and desired that she might haue Law

and Justice (for mercy she neuer craved nor hoped) and that those perjured wretches, which had iudicially accused her to the King, might be brought before her face, to giue in euidence. Pandosto (whose rage and Iealousie was such, as no reason, nor equitie could appease) told her, that for her accusers, they were of such credite, as their words were sufficient witnesse, and that the sodaine and secreete flight of Egistus and Franion, confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her part to denie such a monstrous crime, and to be impudent in forswearing the fact, since shee had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her pale countenance should stand for no coyn: for, as the bastard which she bare was serued, so she should with some cruell death be requited. Bellaria no whit dismayed with this rough replie, told her Husband Pandosto that he spake vpon choler, and not conscience: for her vertuous life had euer bene such as no spot of suspicion could euer stain. And if she had borne a friendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, and not for any lusting affection: therefore if shee were condemned without any further proofe, it was rigour, and not Law. The Noble men which sate in iudgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that the accusers might be openly examined, & sworne: if then the euidence were such, as the Iury might finde her guiltie (for seeing shee was a Prince shee ought to be tried by her Peeres) then let her haue such punishment as the extremitie of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answer, that in this case he might, and would dispence with the Law: and that the Iurie being once panneled, they should take his word for sufficient euidence: otherwise he would make the proudest of them repent it. The Noble men seeing the King in choler, were all whist: but Bellaria whose life then hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetuall infamie, then momentanie death, told the King, if his fury might stand for a Law, that it were vaine to haue the Iury yeld their verdict, and therefore she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the King that for the loue he bare to his young Sonne Garinter, whom she brought into the world, that he would grant her a request, the which was this, that it would please his Maiestie to send five of

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his Noble men whom he best trusted, to the Isle of Delphos, there to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether she had committed adultery with Egistus, or conspired to poison him, with Franion; and if the God Apollo, who by his diuine essence knew all secrets, gaue answer that she was guiltie, she was content to suffer any torment, were it neuer so terrible. The request was so reasonable, that Pandosto could not for shame denie it, vnlesse he would be counted of all his subjects more wilfull then wise. He therefore agreed that with as much speed as might be there should be certaine Embassadors dispatched to the Ile of Delphos: and in the meane season he commanded that his wife should be kept in close prison. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull for her little babe that floated on the Seas, then sorrowfull for her owne mishap. For of that she doubted: of her selfe she was assured: knowing if Apollo should giue Oracle according to the thoughts of the heart, yet the sentence should go on her side; such was the clearnesse of her minde in this case. But Pandosto (whose suspicious head still remained in one song) chose out five of his Nobilitie, whom hee knew were scarce indifferent men in the Duenes behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their tourney, sent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the Kings command, and desirous to see the situation and custome of the Iland, dispatched their affaires with as much speed as might be, and embarked themselves to the voyage: which (the wind and weather seruing fit for their purpose) was soon ended. For within three weekes they arrived at Delphos: where they were no sooner set on Land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering sacrifice to the God, and giftes to the Priest, as the custome was, they humbly craved an answer of their demand. They had not long knoled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voyce said: Bohemians, what ye finde behind the Altar, take and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle, found a scroule of parchment wherein was written these words in letters of gold.

The Oracle.

Suspicion is no proofe: Iealousie is an vnequall Iudge:
Bellaria is chaste: Egistus blamelesse: Franion a true

subject: *Pandosto* treacherous: his babe an innocent, and the King shall die without an heire: if that which is lost be not found.

As soon as they had taken out this scroule, the Priest of the God commanded them, that they should not presume to read it, before they came to the presence of *Pandosto*, unless they would incur the displeasure of *Apollo*. The Bohemian Lords carefully obeying his command, taking their leave of the Priest, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple, and went to their Ships: and as soon as winde would permit them, sayled towards Bohemia, where in short time they safely arrived, and with great triumph issuing out of their Shippes went to the Kings Pallace, whom they found in his chamber accompanied with other Noble men. *Pandosto* no sooner saw them, but with a merrie countenance he welcomed them home, asking what newes: They told his Maiestie, that they had received answer of the God written in a scroule: but with this charge, that they should not read the contents before they came in the presence of the King: and with that they deliuered him the parchment. But his Noble men entreated him, that sith therein were contained eyther the safetie of his wiues life and honestie, or her death and perpetuall infamy, that he would haue his Nobles and Commons assembled in the iudgement Hall: where the Quene brought in as a prisoner, should heare the contents. If she were found guilty by the Oracle of the God, she all should haue cause to thinke his rigour proceeded of due desert: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then she should be cleared before all, sith she had bene accused openly. This pleased the King so, that he appointed the day, and assembled all the Lords and Commons, and caused the Quene to be brought in before the iudgement seate, commanding that the indictment should be read: wherein she was accused of adultery with *Egistus*, and of conspiracie with *Franion*. *Bellaria* hearing the contents, was no whit affonied, but made this charefull answer.

If the diuine powers be priuite to humane actions (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shall make fortune blissh, and

and my vnspotted life shall stayne spitefull discredite. For although lying report hath sought to appeach mine honour, and suspicion hath intended to soyle credit with infamie: yet where vertue keepeth the fort, report and suspicion may assaile, but neuer lacke. Now I haue led my life before *Egistus* comming, I appeale (*Pandosto*) to the Gods, and to thy conscience. What hath passed betwene him and me, the Gods onely know, and I hope will presently reueale. That I loued *Egistus*, I cannot denie: that I honoured him, I sheme not to confesse. To the one I was forced by his vertues: to the other for his dignities. But as touching lasciuious lust, I say *Egistus* is honest, and hope my selfe to be found without spot: for *Franion*, I can neither accuse him, nor excuse him: I was not priuite to his departure: and that this is true, which I haue here rehearsed, I reserue my selfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

Bellaria had no sooner said, but the King commanded that one of the Dukes should read the contents of the scroule, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great shout, reioycing and clapping their hands, that the Quene was clere of that false accusation: but the King, whose conscience was a witnesse against him of his witlesse fury, and false suspected Jealousie, was so ashamed of his rash folly, that he intreated his Nobles to perswade *Bellaria* to forgiue, and to forget these iniuries, promising not onely to shew himselfe a loyall and louing husband, but also to reconcile himselfe to *Egistus* and *Franion*: reuealing then before them all the cause of their secrete sight, and how treacherously he thought to haue practised his death, if the good minde of his cupbearer had not preuented his purpose. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was word brought him, that his yong Sonne *Garinter* was sodainly dead: which newes so soon as *Bellaria* heard, surcharged before with extreame toy, and now suppressed with heauie sorrow, her vitall spirits were stopped, that she fell downe presently dead, and could neuer be reuiued. This sodaine sight so appalled the Kings senses, that he sunke from his seate in a swoone, so as he was faine to be carried by his Nobles to his Pallace, where he lay by the space of three dayes without speech. His

Commons were as men in despair, so diuersly distressed; there was nothing but mourning & lamentation to be heard through out all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her life, and their King and Soueraigne in great hazards: this tragicall discourse of Fortune so daunted them, as they went like shadows not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauie hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recovered his speech: who as in fury bized these bitter speeches.

O Miserable Pandosto, what surer witness then conscience: What thoughts more sure then suspicion? What plague more bad then Zealouise? Unnaturall actions offended the Gods more then men: and causelesse crueltie neuer escapes without reuenge. I haue committed such a bloudie fact, as repent I may: but rect I cannot. Ah Zealouise, a hell to the minde, and a horror to the conscience, suppressing reason, and inciting rage: a worse passion then phrensie, a greater plague then madness. Are the Gods iust? Then let them reuenge such brutish crueltie: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my louing wife I haue slaine with slanderous suspicion: my true friend, I haue sought to betray, and yet the Gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vnjust Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault; why should Garinter, sely child, abide the paine? Well sith the Gods meane to prolong my daies to increase my dolour, I will offer my guiltie blood a sacrifice to those guiltlesse soules, whose liues are lost by rigorous solly. And with that he reached at a rapier to haue murdered himselfe: but his Wares being present, stayed him from such a bloody act: perswading him to think, that the Common wealth consisted on his safetie, and that those shape could not but perish, that wanted a shepheard: wishing, that if he would not liue for himselfe, yet he should haue care of his subjects, and to put such fancies out of his minde: sith in sores past helpe, salues do not heale, but hurt: and in things past cure, cure is a cozaine. With these and such like perswasions the King was overcome, and began somewhat to quiet his mind: so that so sone as he could goe abroade: hee caused his wife to be embalmed, and waapt

waapt in leade, with her young sonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein he entombed them both, making such solemne obsequies at her Funerall, as all Bohemia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forepassed folly: causing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Tombe, in letters of gold.

The Epitaph.

*Here lies entombde Bellaria faire,
Fastly accus'd to be vnchast:
Cleered by Apollos sacred doome,
Yet slaine by lealousie at last.*

*What ere thou bee that passest by,
Curse him that causde this Queene to die.*

This Epitaph being ingrauen, Pandosto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there with watry plants bewaile his misfortune: coueting no other companion but sorrow, nor no other harmonic, but repentance. But leaving him to his dolorous passions, at last let vs come to shew the tragicall discourse of the young Infant.

Who being tossed with winde, and waues, floated two whole daies without succour, readie at euery puffle to be drowned in the Sea: till at last the tempest ceased, & the little Boate was driuen with the tide into the coast of Sycilia: where sticking vpon the Sands, it rested. Fortune minding to be wanton (willing to shew that as she hath wrinkles on her browes: so she hath dimples in her cheeks) thought after so many sorrow lokes, to lend a fained smile: and after a puffing storme, to bring a pretty calme: she beganne thus to dally. It fortuned a poore mercenary Shepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his lining by other mens flockes, missed one of his shepe, and thinking it had strayed into the couert that was hard by, sought very diligently to find that which he could not see, fearing either that the Wolves or Eagles had vndone him (for he was

was to passe, as a shepe was harte his substance) wandered
downe towards the sea cliffes, to see if perchance the shepe was
byddyng on the sea shute, whereon they doe greatly fede. But
not finding her there, as he was ready to retorne to his flocke,
he heard a childe crie: but knowing there was no house nere,
thought he had mistaken the sound, and that it was the bleating
of his shepe. Wherefore looking moze narrowly, as he cast his
eye to the sea, he spied a little Boate: from whence (as he at-
tentively listened) he might heare a crie to come. Standing a
good while in a maze, at last he went to the shoare, & swading to
the Boate, as he looked in, he sawe a little babe lying all alone,
ready to die for hunger and cold, wrapped in a Mantle of Scar-
let, richly embrothered with gold, and having a Chaine about
the necke. The Shepheard, who before had neuer sene so faire
a babe, nor so rich Jewels, thought assuredly, that it was some
little God, and beganne with great deuotion to knocke on his
brest. The babe, who toytheth with the head to seeke for the pay,
began againe to crie a frely: whereby the poore man knew that
it was a child, which by some finisler meanes was byruen thi-
ther by distresse of weather: maruailing how such a silly Infant,
which by the Mantle, and the Chaine, could not but be bozne
of Noble parentage, should be so hardly crossed with deadly mis-
hap. The poore Shepheard, perplexed thus with diuers thoughts,
tooke pittie of the Child, and determined with himselfe to carry
it to the King, that there it might be brought vp, according to the
worthinesse of birth: for his abilitie could not afforde to foster
it, though his mind was willing to further it. Taking therefore
the Child in his armes, as he folded the Mantle together, the
better to defend it from the cold, there fel downe at his fote a ve-
rie faire and rich purse, wherein he found a great summe of gold:
which sight so reuized the Shepheards spirits, as he was greatly
ranchised with ioy, and daunted with feare: ioyfull, to see such
a summe in his power: fearefull, if it should be knowne, that it
might breede his further danger. Decretis wisht him at the
least, to retaine the gold, though he would not keepe the Child:
the simplicitie of his conscience feared him from such deceitfull
briberie. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull
Dilemma, untill at last the coustousnes of the coyn overcame
him

him: for what will not the greedy desire of Golde cause a man to
doe? So that hee was resolved in himselfe to foster the Child,
and with the summe to relieue his want. Resting thus resolute
in this poynt, he left seeking his shepe, and as courtly and se-
cretly as hee could, went a by-way to his house, least any of his
Neighbours should perceiue his carriage.

Asone as he was got home, entring in at the doze, the Child
began to crie. Which his wife hearing, and seeing her Husband
with a young Babe in his armes, began to be somewhat iealous:
yet maruelling that her husband should be so wanton abroad,
sith he was in quiet at home. But as women are naturally gi-
uen to beleue the worst, so his wife thinking it was some ba-
stard, began to crow against her good man: and taking vp a cud-
gell (for the most maister went byschlesse) swore solemnly that
she would make clubs trumpe, if he brought any bastard brat
within her dozes. The goodman seeing his wife in her maiestie,
with her Pace in her hand, thought it was time to bow for feare
of blowes, and desired her to be quiet, for there was no such mat-
ter: but if she could hold her peace, they were made for euer. And
with that he told her the whole matter: how he had found the
childe in a little Boate without any succour, wrapped in that
costly Mantle, and having that rich chaine about the necke: but
at last when he shewed her the purse full of gold, she began to
smper something sweetly. And taking her husband about the
necke, kissed him after her homely fashion: saying, that she ho-
ped God had sene their want, and now meant to releue their
povertie, and seeing they could get no children, had sent them
this little Babe to be their heyre. Take heede in any case (saith
the Shepheard) that you be secret, and blabbe it not out when you
meete with your Gossips. For if you doe, we are all like not one-
ly to lose the gold and Jewels, but our other goods and liues.
With (quoth his wife) profite is a good Hatch before the doze:
Feare not, I haue other things to talke of, then this: but I
pray you let vs lay vp the money surely, and the Jewels, least
by any mishap it be espyed. After that they had set all things in
order, the Shepheard went to his shepe with a merry note, and
the good Wife learned to sing Lulleby at home with her young
Babe, wrapping it in a homely blanket, in stead of a rich mantle,

nourishing it so so cleanly and carefully, as it began to be a lolly
 Gille: insomuch that they began both of them to be very fond
 of it, and as it waxed in age, so it increased in beautie. The
 Shepheard every night at his coming home, would sing and
 dance it on his knee, and prattle, that in a short time it began
 to speake and call him Dad, and her Mam. At last, when it
 grew to ripe yeares, that it was about seven yeares olde, the
 Shepheard left keeping of other mens shepe, and with the mo-
 ney he found in the purse, he bought him the lease of a prettie
 Farme, and got a small flocke of shepe: which when Fawnia
 (so they named the child) came to the age of ten yeares, he set
 her to keepe shepe: and she with such diligence performed her
 charge, as the shepe prospered marvellously vnder her hand.
 Fawnia thought Porrus had bene her Father, and Mopsa her
 Mother (so so was the Shepheard and his wife called) and ho-
 noured and obeyed them with such reuerence, that all the neigh-
 bours praised the dutifull obedience of the Childe. Porrus grew
 in short time to be a man of some wealth and credite. For For-
 tune so favoured him in hauing no charge but Fawnia, that
 he began to purchase Land, intending after his death to giue
 it to his Daughter: so that diuers rich Farmers Sonnes
 came as wooers to his house. For Fawnia was something clean-
 ly attyred, being of such singular beautie and excellent wit, that
 who so saw her, would haue thought she had bene some hea-
 uenly Pimph, and not a mortall creature. Insomuch that
 when she came to the age of sixteen yeares, shee so increased
 with exquisite perfection both of body and minde, as her na-
 turall disposition did bewray that she was borne of some high
 parentage. But the people thinking she was the daughter to the
 Shepheard Porrus, rested onely amazed at her beautie and wit.
 Pea she won such fauour and commendations in every mans
 eye, and her beautie was not onely praised in the Countrey, but
 also spoken of in the Court. Yet such was her submisse mode-
 stie, that although her praise daily increased, her minde was
 no whit puffed up with pride, but humbled her selfe as became a
 country maide, and the daughter of a poore shepheard. Every
 day she went forth with her shepe to the field, keeping them with
 such care and diligence, as all men thought she was very pain-
 full,

fall, defending her face from the beate of the Sunne, with no o-
 ther Tyle, but with a Garland made of Boughs and Flowers,
 which attyre became her so gallantly, as shee seemed to be the
 Goddess Flora her selfe, so beautie. Fortune, who all this
 while had shewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe,
 and to shew a loyning countenance: intending as she had giuen
 Fawnia a slender checke, so shee would giue her a harder mate.

Which to bying to passe, she laide her traine on this wise: E-
 gistus had but one onely Sonne called Dorastus, about the age of
 twenty yeares: a Prince so decked and adorne with the gifts
 of Nature, so fraught with beautie and vertuous qualities, as
 not onely his Father ioyed to haue so goodly a Sonne, but his
 Commons reioyced that God had sent them such a noble Prince
 to succede in the Kingdome.

Egistus, placing all his ioy in the perfection of his Sonne (see-
 ing that hee was now Marriageable) sent Embassadors to the
 King of Denmarke, to intreat a Marriage betwene him, and his
 Daughter. Who willingly consenting, made answer; that
 the next Spring, if it pleased Egistus, with his Sonne to come
 into Denmarke, he doubted not, but they should agree vpon rea-
 sonable conditions. Egistus resting satisfied with this friend-
 ly Answer, thought conuenient in the meane time to breake it
 vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunitie,
 he spake to him in these Fatherly termes.

Dorastus, thy Youth warneth me to preuent the worst, and
 mine Age to prouide the best. Opportunities neglected are
 signes of folly: Actions measured by time, are seldome bit-
 ten with repentance; Thou art young, and I olde: Age hath
 taught me that, which thy youth cannot conceiue.

I therefore will counsell thee as a Father, hoping thou wilt
 obey as a Childe. Thou seest my white haies are blossomes
 for the Graue: and thy fresh colours, fruite for Time and For-
 tune; So that it behoueth mee to thinke how to dye, and for
 thee, to care how to liue. My Crowne I must leane by death,
 and thou enioy my Kingdome by succession. Wherein I hope
 thy vertue and prowesse shall be such, as though my Subiects
 want my Person, yet they shall see in thee my perfection. What

nothing either may sayle to satisfie thy minde, or increase thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is, to see the well married be- fore I dye, and thou become olde.

Dorastus (who from his Infancie, delighted rather to dye with Mars in the field, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber,) fearing to displease his Father, and yet not willing to be Mode, made this reuerent Answer.

SIR, there is no greater bond then Dutie, nor no stricter Law then Nature: disobedience in Youth, is often galled with despight in Age. The command of the Father ought to be a constraint to the Child: so Parents willes are Lawes, so they passe not all Lawes. May it please your Grace therefore, to appoint whom I shall loue: Rather then by denyall I should be appeached of disobedience, I rest content to loue: though it be the onely thing I hate.

Egistus hearing his Sonne to dye farre from the marke, began to be somewhat Chollericke, and therefore made him this hastie Answer.

What Dorastus, canst thou not loue? Commeth this Cynicall passion of p. and desires, or penitish froward- nes? What, dost thou thinke thy selfe too good for all, or none good enough for thee? I tell thee Dorastus, there is nothing sweeter then Youth: nor swifter decreasing, while it is increasing. Time past with Folly may be repented, but not re- called. If thou marry in Age, thy Wiues fresh colours will braide in the dead thoughts and suspicion; and thy white haire her loathsomnes and sorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with Kingdomes, or Treasures; but with Youthfull concepts, and swete Amours. Vulcan was allotted to shake the Tree, but Mars allowed to gather the fruit. Yielde Dorastus to thy Fa- thers perswasions, which may preuent thy perills. I haue cho- sen thee a Wife, faire by Nature, Royall by birth, by vertues famous, learned by education, and rich by possessions: so that it is hard to iudge, whether her bounty or Fortune, her beauty or Vertue bee of greater force. I meane (Dorastus) Euphania, daughter and heire to the King of Denmarke.

Egistus

Egistus pausing here a while, looking when his Sonne should make him answer: and seeing that he stood still, as one in a trance, he spoke him by thus sharply.

Well Dorastus take heede, the Tree Alpya wasteth not with fire, but withereth with deaw: that which loue nourisheth not, perissheth with hate. If thou like Eu- phania thou braedest my content, and in louing her thou shalt haue my loue: otherwise: and with that he flung from his sonne in a rage, leauing him a sorrowfull man, in that he had by deny- all displeased his Father: and halfe angrie with himselfe, that he could not yelde to that passion, whereto both reason and his Fa- ther perswaded him. But see how Fortune is plumed with times feathers, and how she can minister strange causes to braed strange effects.

It happened not long after this, that there was a meeting of all the Farmers daughters in Scycilia, whither Fawnia was al- so bidden as the Distresse of the Feast: who hauing attyred her selfe in her best Garments, went amongst the rest of her compa- nyons to the said merry meeting: there spending the day in such homely pastime as Shepheards vse. As the Queuing grew on, and they sportes ceased, each taking theyr leaue of other, Faw- nia desiring one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the flocke, to see if they were well-folded. And as they returned, it fortuned that Dorastus (who all that day had bene Watking, and killed some of game) incountred by the way these two Maydes: and casting his eye suddenly on Fawnia, he was halfe afraid, fearing that with Acteon he had seen Diana: For hee thought such exquisite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he stood in a maze, one of his Pa- ges told him, that the Mayd with the Garland on her head, was Fawnia the fayre Shepheard, whose beauty was so much talked of in the Court. Dorastus, desirous to see if Nature had adoz- ned her minde with any inward qualities, as shee had decked her body with outward shape; beganne to question with her, whose Daughter she was: of what Age, and how she had bene trayned up? Who answered him with such modest reuerence and sharp- nes of wit, that Dorastus thought her outward beauty was but a counter

countesse to darken her inward qualities: ~~And~~ ^{And} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~her~~ ^{her} ~~so~~ ^{so} ~~courtly~~ ^{courtly} ~~behaviour~~ ^{behaviour} ~~could~~ ^{could} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~found~~ ^{found} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~so~~ ^{so} ~~simple~~ ^{simple} ~~a~~ ^a ~~Cottage~~ ^{Cottage}; and cursing Fortune, that had shadowed Witte and Beautie with such hard Fortune: And thus he held her a long time with chatte.

Beauty seeing him at disconcert: thought not to lose theantage, but strooke him so deeply with an inuened shaft, as he wholly lost his Libertie, and became a Slave to Love, which before contemned Love, glad now to gaze on a poore Shepheard, who before refused the offer of a rich Princeesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so fired his fancies, as he felt his minde greatly changed, and his Affections altered: cursing Love that had wrought such a change; and blaming the baseness of his minde that would make such a choyce. But thinking these were but passionate toys, that might be thrust out at pleasure: to annoy the Syren that Enchanted him, he put spurs to his Horse, and had this faire Shepheard fare-well.

Fawnia, (who all this while had marked the Princely gesture of Dorastus) seeing his face so well featured, and each Limb so perfectly framed, beganne greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till she found her selfe faultie: and perceived that if she waded but a little further, she might slip over the shoes. Shee therefore saking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home; and finding her selfe not well at ease, got her to Bed: where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, shee could take no rest. For if shee awaked, she began to call to minde his beautie: and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, shee then dreamed of his perfection. Pestered with these vnacquainted Passions, she passed the night as she could, in short slumbers.

Dorastus, (who all this while rode with a Flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the swete Favour of Fawnia, but rested so Bewitched with her Wit and Beautie, as he could take no rest. He felt fancies to give the Assault, and his wounded minde readie to yeelde as vanquished; yet he began with diuers considerations to suppress his frantick affection: Calling to minde, that Fawnia was a Shepheard: one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince; much lesse to be loved of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredite it were to himselfe, and what a

griefe

griefe it would be to his father: blaming fortune, and accusing his own folly, that would be so rash, as but once to cast a glance at such a country Slut. And as thus he was raging against himselfe, Love (feeling, if he called long, to lose her Champion) kept more nigh, and gaue him such a fresh wound, as it pierced him at the heart, that he was faine to yeeld maugre his face, and to forsake the company, and get him to his Chamber, where being solemnly set, he burst into these passionate termes.

Ah Dorastus art thou alone? No not alone, while thou art tyred with these vnacquainted passions. Yeelde to fancies thou canst not by thy fathers counsell: but in a frenzie thou art, by iust destinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldst loue: and thou therefore discontent, because thou dost loue. O diuine Love, feared of men, because honoured of the Gods: not to be suppressed by wisdom, because not to be comprehended by reason; without law, and therefore aboue law.

How now Dorastus? why dost thou blaze that with praises which thou hast cause to blaspheme with curses? Yet why should they curse loue, which are in loue?

Blush Dorastus at thy fortune, thy choyse, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be uttered without shame, nor thy affections without discredit. Ah Fawnia, sweet Fawnia, thy beautie Fawnia.

Shamest not thou Dorastus, to name one unfit for thy birth, thy dignities, thy Kingdomes? Die Dorastus, Dorastus die. Better haddest thou perish with high desires, then liue in base thoughts. Yea but beautie must be obeyed, because it is beautie: yet framed of the Gods to save the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah, but he that striueth against Love, smiteth with them of Scyrum against the winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh against the Steele. I will therefore obey, because I must obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia shall be my fortune, in spite of fortune. The Gods aboue disdain not to loue women beneath. Phœbus liked Daphne; Iupiter, Io: and why not I then Fawnia? one something inferiour to these in birth: but farre superiour to them in beautie: bozne to be a Shepheard, but worthy to be a Goddesse.

Ah

My Dorastus, wilt thou to forget thy fellows to suffer attention to suppress wisdom, and looke to violate thine honour? What loue will thy choyle be to thy Father, so sweetfull to thy Subjects, to thy friends a griefe, most glad some to thy foes? But due their thy attention, and cease to loue her whom thou canst best not loue, vnlasse blinded with too much loue. Cuth, I talke to the winde, and in seeking to preuent the causes, I further the effects. I will yet praise Fawnia, honour, yea and loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counsell. Doe Dorastus, thou canst not repent: and with that, his Page came in to the chamber: whereupon he ceased from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, so poore Fawnia was diuersly perplexed. For the next morning getting vp very early, she went to her shape, thinking with hard labours to passe away her new conceived amours, beginning very easily to daine them to the field, and then to shift the folds. At last (wearied with toyle) she fate her doone, where (poore soule) she was more tyred with fond affections. For loue began to assault her: insomuch, that as she fate vpon the side of a hill, she began to accuse her owne folly in these termes.

I Fortune Fawnia, and therefore unfortunate because Fawnia, thy shepheards hooke sheweth thy poore estate, thy proud desires an aspiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No bastard Hatoke must soare so high as the Hobby, no fowle gaze against the Sunne, but the Eagle: actions wrought against nature, reape despight: and thoughts aboue Fortune, disdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a shepheard, Daughter to poore Porrus: if thou rest content with this, thou art like to stand: if thou climbe, thou art like to fall. The hearbe Anita growing higher then sixe inches, becommeth a weede. Nilus flowing more then twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections that passe measure, are cut thort by time or Fortune. Suppress then Fawnia, those thoughts which thou mayest shame to expresse. But ah Fawnia, loue is a Lord: who will command by power, and constrain by force.

Dorastus

Dorastus, ah Dorastus is the man I loue: the worse is thy hap, and the lesse cause hast thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at flies? will Cedars stoop at bzambles: or mighty Princes looke at such homely Truls? No, no: thinke this, Dorastus disdaine is greater then thy desire. He is a Prince, respecting his honour: thou a beggers brat forgetting thy calling. Cease then not onely to say, but to thinke to loue Dorastus: and dissemble thy loue Fawnia. For better it were to die with griefe, than to liue with shame. Yet in despight of loue I will sigh, to see if I can sigh out loue. Fawnia, somewhat appeasing her griefes with these pittie persuasions, began after her wonted manner to walke about her shape, and to keepe them from straying into the cozne: suppressing her affection with the due consideration of her base estate, and with the impossibilitie of her loue: thin- king it were a frenze (not fancie) to couet that which the very destinies denie her to obtaine.

But Dorastus was more impatient in his passions. For Loue so fiercely assailed him, that neither company, nor Musicke could mitigate his Martyrdom: but did rather tarre the more increase his maladie. Shame would not let him craue counsell in this case: nor feare of his fathers displeasure, reuile it to any secreete friend: but he was faine to make a Secretarie of himselfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled minde. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull suspense, at last stealing secretly from the Court, without either man or Page, he went to see if he could espie Fawnia walking abroad in the field. But, as one hauing a great deale more skill to retriue the Partridge with his Spaniels, then to hunt after such a strange prey, he sought, but was little the better. Which crosse lucke daine him into a great choler, that he began both to accuse Loue and fortune. But as he was ready to retire, he saw Fawnia sitting all alone vnder the shade of an hill, making a Garland of such homely flowers as the fieldes did afford. This sight so reuiued his spirits, that he drew nigh, with more iudgement to take a view of her singular perfection: which he found to be such, as in that Country attire she stayned all the Courtly Dames of Sylicia. While thus he stood gazing with pearting looks on her surpassing Beautie,

C

Fawnia

Fawnia cast her eye aside, and espies Dorastus. Which sodaine sight made the poore girl to blush, and to me her Chastall cheekes with the vermilion red: which gaue her such a grace, as she seemed farre more beautifull; and with that she rose vp, saluting the Prince with such modest courtesies, as he wondered how a countrey maide could afford such courtly behaviour. Dorastus repaying her courtesie with a smiling countenance, began to parley with her on this manner.

Faire maide (quoth he) epyther your want is great, or a shepherds life very swete, that your delight is in such countrey labours. I cannot conceiue what pleasure you should take, vnlesse you meane to imitate the Simphes, being your selfe so like a Simph. To put me out of this doubt, shew me what is to be commended in a Shepherds life, and what pleasures you haue to counteruaile these drudging labours. Fawnia, with blushing face, made him this answer.

Sir, what richer state then content: or what swaeter life then quiet? We shepherds are not borne to honour, nor beholding vnto beautie: the lesse care we haue to feare fame or fortune. We count our attyre braue enough, if warme enough: and our food daintie, if to suffice nature: our greatest enemy is the wolfe: our onely care, in safe keeping our flocke, in stead of courtly disties, wee spend the daies with country songs: our amorous conceits are homely thoughts: delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country pranker, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toyle is in shifting the foldes, and looking to the Lambes, easie labours: oft sitting and telling tales; homely pleasures: our greatest wealth, not to couet, our honoz, not to climbe: our quiet, not to care. Ennie looketh not so leys as Shepherds: Shepherds gaze not so high as ambition: we are rich, in that we are poze with content: and proud onely in this, that we haue no cause to be proud.

This wittie answer of Fawnia so inflamed Dorastus fancy, as he commended himselfe for making so good a choyce: thinking, if her birth were answerable to her wit and beautie,

tie, that they were a fit mate for the most famous Prince in the world. He therfore began to liue with her more narrowly on this manner.

Fawnia, I see thou art content with Countrey-labours, because thou knowest not Courtly pleasures: I commend thy wit, and pittie thy want. But wilt thou leaue thy Fathers Cottage, and serue a Courtly Distresse?

She (quoth she) Beggars ought not to strue against Fortune, nor to gaze against Honour; least epyther their fall be greater, or they become blinde. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court: My nature vnfit for theyr nature: better liue in meane degree, then liue in high disoaine.

Well said Fawnia (quoth Dorastus) I gesse at thy thoughts, thou art in loue with some Countrey-Shepherd.

No she (quoth she) Shepherds cannot loue, that are so simple: and Paydes may not loue that are so young.

Pay therfore (quoth Dorastus) Paydes must loue because they are young: for Cupid is a Childe, and Venus, though olde, is painted with fresh colours.

I grant (said she) Age may be painted with new shadows, and Youth may haue imperfect affections: but what art concealeth in one, Ignorance reuealeth in the other. Dorastus seeing Fawnia helde him so hard, thought it was vaine so long to beate about the Bush: therfore he thought to haue giuen her a fresh charge: but hee was so preuented by certaine of his men; who missing their Master, came Dosting to seek him, seeing that he was gone forth all alone; Yet before they dyeloe so nigh that they might heare theyr talke, he vsed these speeches.

Why Fawnia, perchappes I loue thee, and then thou must needes yelde. For thou knowest I can commaund and constrain. Truth she (quoth she) but not so loue: for constrained loue is force, not Love: And know this she, mine honestie is such, as I had rather dye, then be a concubine, euen vnto a king: and my birth is so base, as I am vnfit to be a wife vnto a poore farmer. Why then (quoth he) thou canst not loue Dorastus. Yes (saide Fawnia) when Dorastus becomes a Shepherd: and with that the presence of his men broke off theyr Parley; so that

hee went with them to the Pallace, and left Fawnia sitting still on the Hill side: Who, seeing that the night drew on, shifted her fouldes, and busied her selfe about other worke, to drive away such fond fancies as beganne to trouble her bzaire. But all this could not preuaile: for the beautie of Dorastus had made such a deepe impression in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking; so that shee was fayne to blame her owne folly, in this wise.

A Fawnia, why doest thou gaze against the Sunne, or catch at the Winde? Starres are to be looked at with the Eye, not reached at with the hand: Thoughts are to be measured by Fortunes, not by desires; Follies come not by sitting lowe, but by climbing too high. What then, shall all feare to fall, because some happe to fall? No, Lucke commeth by Lot, and fortune windeth those threads which the Destinies spinne. Thou art favoured Fawnia of a Prince, and yet thou art so fond to reject desired favours: Thou hast denpall at thy tongues end, and desire at thy hearts bottome: a Romans fault, to spurne at that with her scote, which she greedily catcheth at with her hand: Thou lovest Dorastus, Fawnia; and yet seemest to loose. Take heed, if he retire, thou wilt repent: for unless he loue, thou canst but die. Die then Fawnia: for Dorastus doth but test. The Lyon neuer prepeeth on the House: nor doe Faulcons stoupe to dead fables. Sit downe then in this sorrow; Cease to loue, and content thy selfe, that Dorastus will boughsafe for to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancie Fawnia. Heigh-ho: Ah-sole, It were seemelyer for thee to whistle as a Shepheard, then to sigh as a Loner: And with that she ceased from these perplexed passions: folding her sheepe, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But such was the unconstant sorrow of Dorastus, to thinke on the Wit and Beauty of Fawnia: and to see how fond hee was, being a Prince: and how forward she was being a Begger: that he began to lose his wanted Appetite, to looke pale and wanne: in steede of myrrh, to feed on melancholy: for Courtly daunces, to be colde Dumps. Insomuch, that not onely his owne men, but his Father, and all the Court began to marvell at his subdaine change, thinking that some lingring sickness had brought him

him into this state. Wherefore he caused Physicians to come. But Dorastus nought would let them minister, nor so much as suffer them to see his Urine: but remained still so oppressed with these Passions, as he feared in himselfe a further inconvenience. His Honour wished him to cease from such follie: but Loue, forced him to followe fancie: yea, and in despite of Honour Loue wonne the conquest. So that his hote desires caused him to find newe deuices. For hee presently made himselfe a Shepheards Coate, that hee might goe vnknowne, and with lesse suspicion to pattle with Fawnia: and conueyed it secretly into a thicke Grove hard adioyning to the Pallace: whither finding fit time and opportunity he went all alone; And putting off his Princely Apparell, got on those Shepheards-roabs: and taking a great Hooke in his hand (which hee also had gotten) he went very anciently to finde out the Mistresse of his Affection. But as hee went by the way, seeing himselfe clad in such vnseemely Raggies, he beganne to smile at his owne follie, and to reprove his fondnes, in these termes.

Well said Dorastus, thou keepst a good Decorum; Wase desires, and homely Attires: Thy thoughts are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy Apparell such as onely becomes a Shepheard. A strange change; from a Prince to a Peasant. What, is it thy wretched Fortune, or thy wilfull follie? Is it thy cursed Destinies, or thy crooked desires, that appointeth thee this Penance? Ah Dorastus, thou canst but loue, and unless thou loue, thou art like to perish for loue. Yet, fond sole, choose flowers, not Weeds; Diamonds, not Pibbles: Ladies, which may honour thee: not Shepheards which may disgrace thee. Venus is painted in silkes, not in raggies: and Cupid treadeth on disdaine, when he reacheth at dignitie. And yet Dorastus, shame not at thy Shepheards weede: the heauenly Gods haue sometime earthly thoughts: Neptune became a Ramme, Iupiter a Bull, Apollo, a Shepheard; they Gods, and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue.

Deuising thus with himselfe, hee dreyne nigh to the place where Fawnia was keeping her sheepe: who casting her Eye aside, and seeing such a mannerly Shepheard, perfectly limm'de,

and comming with so good a pace, she began halfe to forget Dorastus, and to fauour this pretty Shepheard, whom she thought she might both loue and obtaine. But as she was in these thoughts, she perceiued then, it was the young Prince Dorastus: wherefore she rose vp, and reuerently saluted him. Dorastus taking her by the hand, caressed her Courtelle with a swete kisse, and praying her to sit downe by him, he began thus to lay the Battery.

If thou maruell Fawnia at my strange Attire, thou wouldest much more muse at myne vnaccustomed thoughtes: The one disgraceth but my outward shipe, the other disturbeth my inward senses: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what Loue liketh, I cannot mislike. Fawnia thou hast promised to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no lesse: I haue fulfilled thy request, and now thou canst not but graunt my desire. Thou wert content to loue Dorastus, when he ceased to be a Prince, and became a Shepheard: And so, I haue made a change, and therefore not to mislike of my choyce.

Truth (quoth Fawnia;) but all that weare Coules are not Horses: Painted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeuxis grapes were like Grapes, yet shadowes: Rich Cloathing make not Princes; nor homely attyre Beggars: Shepheards are not called Shepheards, because they weare Hokes and Bagges, but because they are borne pore, & liue to keepe Sheepe: So this attyre hath not made Dorastus a Shepheard, but to seeme like a Shepheard.

Well Fawnia, (answered Dorastus) were I a Shepheard, I could not but like thee: being a Prince, I am forced to loue thee. Take heede Fawnia, be not proud of Beauties painting: For it is a flower that fadeth in the blossome. Whose which disoaine in youth, are despised in age. Beauties shadowes are trickt by with Times colours: Which being set to dye in the Sunne are stained with the Sunne, scarce pleasing the sight, yet they begin not to be worth the sight: not much vnlike the Pearbe Ephimeron, which flourisheth in the morning, and is withereth befoze the Sunne-setting. If my desire were
against

Dorastus and Fawnia.

against law, thou mightest iustly denie me by reason: but I loue thee Fawnia: not to misuse thee as a Concubine, but to vse thee as my wife; I can promise no more, and meane to performe no lesse.

Fawnia hearing this solemne protestation of Dorastus, could no longer withstand the assault, but yielded by the force, in these friendly termes.

Alas Dorastus, I shame to expresse that thou forcest me with thy sugred speech to confesse: my base birth causeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggars thoughts ought not to reach so farre as Kings, and yet my desires reach as high as Princes. I dare not say Dorastus I loue thee, because I am a Shepheard: but the Gods know I haue honoured Dorastus, (pardon if I say amisse) yea and loued Dorastus with such dutifull affection, as Fawnia can performe, or Dorastus desire: I yeld not, overcome with prayers, but with Loue: resting Dorastus hand-maid, ready to obey his will, if no preiudice at all to his honour, nor my credite.

Dorastus hearing this friendly conclusion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, swearing that neyther distance, time, nor aduerser Fortune should diminish his affection: but that in despite of the destinies he would remaine ioyfull vnto death. Winning thus plight their troth each to other, seeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egistus content would neuer be granted to so meane a match, Dorastus determined as soone as time and opportunity would giue him leaue, to prouide a great masse of money, and many rich and costly Jewels, for the easier carriage: and then to transport themselves and their Treasure into Italy, where they should leade a contented life, vntill such time as eyther he could be reconciled to his Father, or else by succession come to the Kingdome. This denice was greatly prayed of Fawnia: for she feared, if the King his father should but heare of the contract, that his fury would be such, as no lesse then death should stand for payment. She therefore told him, that belgazed danger: that many mishaps did fall out betwixne the
cup

cup and lip : and that to auoyd anger, it were best with as much speed as might be, to passe out of Sicylia, least Fortune might preuent their patience with some new despight. Dorastus, whom loue pricked forward with desire, promised to dispatch his affaires with as great hast, as eather time or opportunity would giue him leaue: and so resting vpon this point, after many embracings and swete kisses, they departed. Dorastus, hauing taken his leaue of his best beloued Fawnia, went to the groue where he had his rich apparrell, and there vncasing himselfe as secretly as might be, hiding by his Shepheards attire, till occasion should serue againe to vse it: he went to the Pallace, shewing by his merrie countenance, that eather the state of his body was amended, or the cause of his minde greatly redressed. Fawnia poore soule was no lesse ioyfull, that being a Shepheard, Fortune had fauoured her so, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to be aduanced from the daughter of a poore farmer, to be a wife to a rich King. So that she thought every houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent danger: not ceasing still to goe euery day to her sheepe: not so much for the care of the flocke, as for the desire she had to see her loue and Lord Dorastus: who oftentimes when opportunity would serue, repaired thither to feede his fancie with his swete content of Fawnias presence. And although he neuer went to visit her, but in these Shepheards ragges, yet his oft repaire made him not onely suspected, but knowne to diuers of their neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him secretly of the matter, wishing him to keepe his daughter at home, least she went so oft to the field, that she brought him home a young sonne. For they feared that Fawnia being so beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was stricken into a dumpe at these newes, so that thanking his neighbours for their good will, he bied him home to his wife: and calling her aside, wringing his hands, and shedding forth teares, he brake the matter to her in these termes.

I Am afraid wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her selfe so fine, that she will buy repentance too deare. I heare newes

newes, which if they be true, some will say they had not promised true. It is tolde mee by my neighbours, that Dorastus the Kings Sonne begins to looke at our Daughter Fawnia: which if it be so, I will not giue her a halfe-pennie for her honestie at the gates end. I tell thee wife, now a dayes beauty is a great snare to trap young men: and faire words and swete promises are two great enemyes to Maidens chastitie: and thou knowest, where poore men in teate and cannot obtaine, there Princes may commaund, and will obtaine. Though Kings Sonnes daunce in Mats, they may not be seene: yet poore mens faultes are spied at a little hole. Well, it is a hard case where King. Lusts are Lawes, and that they should binde poore men to that which they themselves wilfully breake.

Peace Husband (quoth his wife) take heede what you say: speake no more then you should, least you heare what you would not. Great streames are to be stopped by sleights, not by force: and Princes to be perswaded by submission, not by rigour: Doe what you can, but no more then you may; least in saving Fawnias Hayden-head, you lose your owne head.

Take heede I say, it is I lying with Cogd-toles, and hadde sported with Kings. The Wolfe had his skin pulled ouer his Eares, so but looking into the Lyons denne. Wifely wife (quoth he) thou speakest like a foole: if the King should know that Dorastus had gotten our Daughter with Childe (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings furie would be such, as no doubt wee should both lose our goods and liues: Necessity therefore hath no Law, and I will preuent this mischief with a new deuice that is come into my head, which shall neither offend the King, nor displease Dorastus. I meane to take the Chayne and the Jewells that I found with Fawnia, and carry them to the King: letting him then to vnderstand, how she is none of my Daughter, but that I found her beaten vp with the Water alone, in a little Boat, and wrapped in a rich Mantle, wherein was inclosed this Treasure. By this meanes I hope the King will take Fawnia into his seruice, and wee whatsoeuer chaunceth, shall be blamelesse. This deuice pleased the Good-wifely very well, so that they determined as sone as they might knowe the King at leasure, to make him priuie to this case. In the meane time,

Dorastus was not slacke in his affayres, but applied his matters with such diligence, that he provided all things fit for their journey. Treasure and jewels he had gotten great store, thinking there was no better friend then Money in a strange Countrey: Rich Attire he had provided for Fawnia: and because he could not bring the matter to passe without the help and advisement of some one, hee made an olde Servant of his called Capnio, who hadde served him from his Child-hood, privie to his affayres; Who, seeing no persuasions could prevail to divert him from his settled determination, gave his consent, and dealt so secretly in the cause, that within short space he had gotten a Shippe ready for their passage. The Mariners seeing a fit gale of wind for their purpose, wished Capnio to make no delays, least (if they pretermitted this good Weather) they might stay long ere they had such a faire Winde.

Capnio, fearing that his negligence should hinder the journey, in the night time conveyed the Trunkes full of Treasure into the Ship, and by secret meanes let Fawnia understand, that the next morning they meant to depart. She upon this newes slept very little that night, but got her up very early, and went to her Chamber, looking every minute when she should see Dorastus; who tarried not long, for feare Delay might brabe danger: but came as fast as he could Gallop, and without any great circumstance took Fawnia up behinde him, and rode to the Haven where the Shippelay, which was three quarters of a mile distant from that place. Hee no sooner came there, but the Mariners were ready with their Cock-boate to set them aboard: where being coucht together in a Cabbin, they past away the Time in recounting their olde Loves, till their man Capnio should come.

Porrus, who had heard that this Morning the King would goe abroade to take the Ayre, called in haste his Wife to bring him his Holie-day Hose, and his best Jacket, that hee might goe like an honest substantiall man to tell his Tale. His Wife a good cleanly Wench, brought him all things fitte, and sponged him up very handsomely, giving him the Chaine and the jewels in a little bore: which Porrus for the more safety put in his bosome. Having thus his trinkets in a readinesse, taking his Staffe in his hand, he bad his Wife kisse him for good lucke, and so he went

went towards the Pallace. But as he was going, Fortune (who meant to shew him a little false play) prevented his purpose in this wise.

He met by chance in his way Capnio, who trudging as fast as he could with a little Coffer under his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus, whom he knew to be Fawniaes Father going towards the Pallace: being a wily fellow, began to doubt the worst, and therefore crost him the way, and asked him whether he was going so early in the morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning simply, told him that the Kings sonne Dorastus dealt hardly with him: for he had but one Daughter who was a little beautifull, and that his neighbours told him, the young Prince had allured her to folly: he went therefore now to complaine to the King how greatly he was abused.

Capnio (who straight way smelt the whole matter) began to sooth him in his talke, and said, that Dorastus dealt not like a Prince to spoyle any poore mans daughter in that sort: he therefore would doe the best for him he could, because he knew he was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio) you lose your labour in going to the Pallace: for the King meanes this day to take the Ayre of the Sea, and to goe aboard of a ship that lies in the Haven: I am going before you see, to provide all things in a readinesse: and if you will follow my counsell, turne backe with me to the haven, where I will set you in such a fit place as you may speake to the King at your Pleasure. Porrus giving credit to Capnioes smooth tale, gave him a thousand thanks for his friendly advise, and went with him to the Haven, making all the way his complaint on Dorastus; yet concealing secretly his Chaine and the Jewels. As soon as they were come to the Sea side, the mariners seeing Capnio, came to land with their Cock-boate: who still dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus if he would goe see the Ship: who unwilling and fearing the worst, because he was not well acquainted with Capnio, made his excuse, that he could not brabe the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, seeing that by faire meanes he could not get him aboard, commaunded the Mariners that by violence they should

carried him into a ship, who like Curtes knewes how to use the paze
Shepheards on their backs, and bearing him to the Boate, lan-
ched from the land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed, durst not cry
out, for he saw it would not preuaile: but began to intreate
Capnio and the Marriners to be good to him, and to pittie his
estate, he was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they
laughing to see the Shepheard so afraid, made as much haile as
they could to set him aboard. Porrus was no sooner in the ship,
but he saw Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew
her: for she had attyred her selfe in rich apparell, which so in-
creased her beantie, that she resembled rather an Angell, then a
creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia were halfe astonished to see the olde
Shepheard, maruelling greatly what winde had brought him
thither, till Capnio told them all the whole discourse: how
Porrus was going to make his complaint to the King, if by po-
licie he had not prevented him: and therefore now sith he was
aboard, for the auoiding of further danger, it were best to carry
him into Italy.

Dorastus praised greatly his mans deuice, and allowed of
his counsaile: but Fawnia (who still feared Porrus as her fa-
ther) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes he should
euer incurre danger or displeasure.

The old Shepheard hearing this hard sentence: that he should
on such a suddaine be carried from his wife, his Countey and
kinfolke, into a foraine Land amongst strangers, began with
bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreat
Dorastus, that pardoning his vnadvised folly, he would giue
him leave to go home: swearing that he would keepe all things
as secret as he could wish. But these protestations could not
preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus verie earnestly:
but the Marriners hoisting their maine sayles weighed Anchors
hailed into the deepe, where we leaue them to the succour of the
wind and seas, and returne to Egistus.

VVho having appointed this day to hunt in one of his
forests, called for his Sonne Dorastus to goe sport
himselke,

himselke, because he saw that of late he began to looke: but his
men made answer, that he was gone abroad none knew whi-
ther, except he were gone to the grone to walke all alone as his
custome was euery day.

The King willing to waken him out of his damps, sent
one of his men to goe seek him, but in vaine: for at last he re-
turned, but find him he could not, so that the King went him-
selfe to goe see the sport: where passing away the day, retur-
ning at night from hunting, he asked for his sonne, but he could
not be heard of, which droue the King into a great choler: where-
upon most of his Noble men and other Courtiers, passed abroad
to seek him, but they could not heare of him through all Sylicia:
onely they missed Capnio his man, which againe made the King
suspect that he was not gone farre.

Two or three daies being passed, and no newes heard of
Dorastus, Egistus began to feare that he was deuoured with
some wilde beasts, and vpon that made out a great troupe of
men to goe seek him: who coasted through all the Countrey,
and searched in euery dangerous and secret place, untill at
last they met with a fisherman, that was sitting in a little
conert hard by the Sea side mending his Nets, when Dora-
stus and Fawnia toke shipping: who being examined if he ey-
ther knew and heard where the Kings sonne was, without any
feintie at all revealed the whole matter, how he was sayled
two daies past, and had in his company his man Capnio, Por-
rus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This beantie newes was
presently carried to the King, who halfe dead for sorrow, com-
manded Porrus wife to be sent for: she being come to the
Palace, after due exami-ation, confessed that her neighbours
had oft told her that the Kings Sonne was too familiar with
Fawnia her daughter: whereupon her husband fearing the
worst, about two daies past (hearing the King should goe on
hunting) rose early in the morning, and went to make his
complaint, but since she neuer heard of him, nor saw him.
Egistus perceiving the womans vnfeined simplicitie, let her
depart without incurring further displeasure, conceiuing such
secret griefe for his Sonnes vnchaste folly, that he had so for-
gotten his honour and Parentage, by to hate a choyle to disho-
nour

now his Father, and discredit himselfe, that with very rare
and thought he fell into a quartan feuer; which was so vnfit for
his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weake as the
Physitions would grant him no life.

But his sonne Dorastus little regarded eyther Father, Coun-
trei, or kingdome, in respect of his Ladie Fawnia: for fortune
smiling on this young noice, sent him so luckie a gale of wind,
for the space of a day and a night, that the Marriners lay and
slept vpon the hatches: but on the next morning about the break
of the day, the ayre began to ouerscast, the windes to rise, the
Seas to swell, and presently there arose such a fearefull tempest,
as the ship was in danger to be swallowed vp with euery waue,
the maine Mast with the violence of the winde was throwne
ouer-board, the Sailes were torne, the Macking rent a sunder,
the Storme raging still so furiously, that poore Fawnia was al-
most dead for feare, but that she was greatly comforted with
the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued thre daies,
all which time, the Marriners euery minute looked for death,
and the ayre was so darkened with clouds, that the Master could
not tell by the compasse in what Coast they were. But vpon
the fourth day about ten of the clocke, the winde began to cease,
the Sea to waie caline, and the skie to be cleare, and the Mar-
riners discried the coast of Bohemia, shooting off their Ordnance
for ioy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arrived at some harbour,
sweetly kissed Fawnia, and bad her be of good chere: when
they told him that the Port belonged to the chiefe Citie of
Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus beganne
to be sad: knowing that his Father hated no man so much as
Pandosto, and that the king himselfe had sought secretly to
betray Egistus: this considered, hee was halfe afraid to goe
on land, but that Capnio counselled him to change his name
and his Countrey, untill such time as they could get some other
Barke to transport them into Italy. Dorastus liking this de-
uise, made his case priuie to the Marriners, rewarding them
bountifullly for their paines, and charging them to say, that he
was a Gentleman of Trapolonia called Meleagrus. The
Shipmen, willing to shew what friendship they could to Dora-
stus,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

stus, promised to be as secret as they could, or hee might with:
and vpon this, they landed in a Village a Mile distant from the
Citie: Where, after they had rested a day, thinking to make
proouision for their Marriage, the fame of Fawnias beaultie
was spread throughout all the Citie: so that it came to the eare of
Pandosto; who then being about the age of fiftie, had notwith-
standing young and fresh Affections: So that he desired greatly
to see Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to passe, hea-
ring they had but one man, and how they rested at a very homi-
ly house, he caused them to be apprehended as Spyres, and sent
a dozen of his Guard to take them: Who being come to their
Lodging, tolde them the Kings Message. Dorastus no whit dis-
mayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the
Court, (for they left Porrus to keepe the stufte) who being admit-
ted to the Kings presence, Dorastus and Fawnia with humble o-
beyfance saluted his Maiestie.

Pandosto, amazed at the singular perfection of Fawnia, stood
halfe astonished, viewing her Beaultie: so that hee almost forgot
himselfe what he had to doe. At last with sterne countenance,
he demaunded their Names, and of what Countrey they were,
and what caused them to Land in Bohemia? Sye (quoth Do-
rastus) know that my name is Meleagrus, a Knight borne and
brought vp in Trapolonia: and this Gentlewoman, whome I
meane to take to my Wife, is an Italian, borne in Padua, from
whence I haue now brought her. The cause I haue so small a
Trayne with me, is, for that her Friends unwilling to consent,
I intended secretly to conuey her into Trapolonia, whither I
was sayling, and by distresse of weather, I was driven into these
Coastes. Thus haue you heard my Name, my Countrey, and
the cause of my Voyage. Pandosto starting from his Seate, as
one in choller, made this rough Replie.

Meleagrus, I feare this smooth Tale hath but a small truth,
and that thou couerest a foule skinne with faire paintings. No
doubt this Ladie, by her grace and Beaultie, is of higher degree,
more meete for a mighty Prince, then for a simple Knight: and
thou like a periured Traytor, hast bereft her of her Parents, to
their present griefe, and her ensuing sorrowe: Till therefore I
heare more of her Parentage, and of her calling, I will stay you
both

both parts in Bohemia.

Dorastus, in his own selfe nothing but singly valiant, was not able to suffer the reproaches of Pandosto, but that he made him this answer.

It is not meete for a King, without due proofe to approach any man of ill behauiour, nor vpon suspicion to inferre Beliefe: Strangers ought to be entertained with courtesie: not to be intreated with cruelty, least being forced by want to put by injuries, the Gods reuenge their cause with rigour.

Pandosto hearing Dorastus utter these wordes, commanded that he should straight be committed to Prison, vntill such time as they heard further of his pleasure: but as for Fawnia, hee charged that she should be entertained in the Court, with such courtesie as belonged to a Stranger, and her calling. The rest of the Shipmen put into the Dungeon.

Having thus handled the supposed Trapoltianians: Pandosto contrary to his aged yeares, beganne to be somewhat tickled with the beautie of Fawnia; insomuch that he could take no rest, but cast in his olde head a thousand new deuices: At last he fell into these thoughts.

How art thou thus pestered Pandosto with fresh Affections, and brittle fancies, wishing to possesse with an unwilling minde, and a hote Desire troubled with a colde disoaine: Shall thy minde yeeld in Age, to that thou hast resist in youth: Heare Pandosto, blabbe not out that which thou mayest be ashamed to reueale to thy selfe. Ah Fawnia is beautifull, and it is not for thine Honour (fond foole,) to name her that is thy Captiue, and another mans Concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hand, which my heart would faine refuse: playing like the Wyzd Ibis in Egypt, which hateth Serpents, and yet sedeth on theyr Egges.

Wish, hote Desires turne oftentimes to colde disoaine: Loue is brittle, where Appetite, not Reason, beares the sway: Kings thoughtes ought not to climbe so high as the Dauiens; but to looke no lower then Honour: better is it to pecke at the Starres with the young Eagles, then to prey on dead Carcasses with the

the Wilturs: it is more honourable for Pandosto to die by con-
sealing Loue, then to enioy such vnsitte Loue. Wotst Pandosto then Loue? Yea. Whom? A maide vnknowne, yea and perhaps immodest, straggled out of her owne Countrie: beautifull, but not therefore chaste: comely in body, but perhappes croked in minde. Cease then Pandosto to looke at Fawnia, much lesse to loue her: be not ouertaken with a womans beautie, whose eyes are foyned by art to enamour, whose heart is framed by nature to enchaunt: whose false teares know their true times, and whose swete wordes pierce deeper then sharpe swordes. Here ceast Pandosto from his talke, but not from his loue: for although he sought by reason and wisdome, to suppress this franticke affection: yet he could take no rest, the beautie of Fawnia had made such a deepe impression in his heart. But on a day walking abroade into a Parke which was hard adioyning to his house, he sent by one of his seruants for Fawnia, vnto whom he uttered these wordes.

Fawnia, I commend thy beautie and wit, and nelo pittie thy distresse and want: but if thou wilt forsake thy Meleagrus (whose powertie, though a knight, is not able to maintaine an estate answerable to thy beautie) and yeld thy consent to Pandosto, I will both increase thee with dignities and riches. So said, answered Fawnia, Meleagrus is a knight that hath wonne me by Loue, and none but he shall weare me: his Anister mischaunce shall not diminish my affection, but rather increaseth my good will: thinke not, though your Grace hath imprisoned him without cause, that feare will make me yeld my consent: I had rather bee Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plentie, and bee Pandostes Concubine. Pandosto hearing the assured answer of Fawnia, would notwithstanding, prosecute his suite to the bittermost: seeking with faire wordes and great promises to scale the fort of her chastitie: swearing that if she would graunt to his desire, Meleagrus should not onely be set at libertie, but honoured in the Court amongst his Nobles: but these alluring baytes, could not intice her ininde from the loue of her new betrothed Mate Meleagrus: which Pandosto seeing, hee left her alone for that time to

consider more of the seruants: Fawnia being alone by her selfe, began to fall into these solitarie meditations.

A Vnfortunate Fawnia, thou seest, to desire above Fortune, is to strue above Gods and Fortune. Who gazeth at the Sunne, weakeneth his sight; they which stare at the Skie, fall oft into daepe pitte: haddest thou rested content to haue bene a Shepheard, thou haddest not to haue feared mischaunce: better had it bene for thee, by sitting low, to haue had quiet, then by climbing high, to haue fallen into misery. But alas, I feare not mine owne danger, but Dorastus displeasure. Oh wretched Dorastus, thou art a Prince, but now a Prisoner, by so much loue, procuring thine owne losse: haddest thou not loued Fawnia, thou haddest bene fortunate. Shall I then be false to him that hath forsaken Kingdome for my cause? No, would my death might deliuer him, so myre honour might be preferred. With that, fetching a depe sigh, she ceased from her complaints, and went againe to the Pallace, enioying a libertie without content, and proffred pleasure with small ioy. But poore Dorastus lay all this while in close prison, being punished with a hard re- straynt, and payned with the burthen of cold and heauie Irons, sorrowing sometimes that his fond affection had procured him this mishap, that by the disobedience of his Parents, he had wrought his owne despight: another while cursing the Gods and Fortune, that they would crosse him with sinister chaunce, uttering at last his passions with these words.

Oh vnfortunate wretch borne to mishap, now thy folly hath his desert: art thou not worthy for thy base minde, to haue bad Fortune? Could the destinies fauour thee, which hast forgot thine honour and dignitie: will not the Gods plague him with despight, that payneth his father with disobedience? Oh Gods, if any fauour or iustice be left, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia, and shewde her from the tyrannies of wretched Pandosto: but let my death free her from mishap, and then welcome death. Dorastus payned with these heauie passions, sorrowed and sighed, but in vaine, for which he vsed more patience. But againe to Pandosto, who broyling in the heate of vnlaw- full lust, could take no rest, but still felt his minde disquieted with

with his new Loue, so that his Nobles and Subjects marvelled greatly at his sudden Alteration: Not being able to coniecture the cause of this his continued care.

Pandosto thinking euery houre a yeare, till he had talked once againe with Fawnia, sent for her secretly into his Chamber: whither Fawnia, though vnwillingly comming, Pandosto entertain- ed her very courteously, vsing these familiar speeches, which Fawnia answered as shortly in this wise.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, Are you become lesse wilfull and more wise, to pre- ferre the Loue of a King before the liking of a poore knight? I thinke ere this, you chame it is better to be fauoured of a King, then of a Subject.

Fawnia.

Pandosto, the Bodie is subiect to Victories, but the minde not to be subdued with Conquest; Chastitie is to be preferred before Honour: and a Dramme of Faith weygheth downe a Tunne of Golde. I haue promised Melcagrus to loue, and will performe no lesse.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, I knowe thou art not so vnwise in thy choyce, as to refuse the Offer of a King; nor so vngratefull as to despise a good-turne: Thou art nowe in that place where I may com- maund, and yet thou seest I intreate. My power is such, that I may compell by force, and yet I sue by Prayers. Praise Fawnia thy Loue, to him which burneth in thy loue, Melcagrus shall be set free, thy Countrey-men discharged, and thou both loued and honoured.

Fawnia.

I see Pandosto, where Lust ruleth it is a miserable thing to bee a Virgine: But knowe this, that I will alwayes preferre fame before life, and rather chuse death then dishonour.

Pandosto seeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate Courage to loue Melcagrus; and a resolution without feare to hate him, flaying away from her in a Rage, he spake, that if in short time she would not be twnne by reason, he would forget all courtesie, and compell her to grant by rigour. But those threat- ning wordes no whit dismayed Fawnia: but that shee still both

scribes and despises Pandosto. While thus these two Lovers
trowe, the one to winne Loue, the other to winne Hate. Egi-
stus heard certaine Jewes by Merchants of Bohemia, that his
Sonne Dorastus was imprisoned by Pandosto: which made
him feare greatly, that his Sonne should bee but hardly intrea-
ted: Yet considering that Bellaria and he were cleared by the
Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandosto had un-
justly charged them: he thought best to send with all speed to
Pandosto, that he should set free his Sonne Dorastus, and put to
death Fawnia, and her Father Porrus.

Finding this, by the aduise of Counsell, the speediest remedie
to release his Sonne, he caused presently two of his Ships to be
rigged, and thoroughly furnished with provision of men and Vi-
tualls, and sent diuers of his Nobles, Embassadors into Bohe-
mia: Who willing to obey the King, and receiue their young
Prince, made no delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much
speed as might be, sailed towards Bohemia; The Winde and
Seas fauoured them greatly, which made them hope of some
good happe; for within three dayes they were Landed: Which
Pandosto, no sooner heard of their Arriual, but he in Person
went to meete them, intreating them with such sumptuous and
familiar courtesie, that they might well perceiue how sorry he
was for the former Injuries he hadde offered to their King, and
how willing (if it might be) to make amends.

As Pandosto made reporte to them, howe one Melcagrus, a
Knight of Trapolonia, was lately arrined with a Ladie called
Fawnia, in his Land, counting very suspitionly: accompanied
only with one Seruant, and an olde Shepheard: The Embassa-
dours perceiued by the halfe, what the whole Tale meant, and
beganne to Coniecture that it was Dorastus, who for feare to be
knowne, had changed his Name. But dissembling the matter,
they shortly arrined at the Court, where after they had bene very
solemnly and sumptuously feasted: the Noble men of Cecylia be-
ing gathered together, they made reporte of their Embassage;
where they certified Pandosto, that Melcagrus was Sonne and
Heire to the King Egistus, and that his name was Dorastus: and
howe contrary to the Kings minde he had priuily conueyed away
that Fawnia, intending to marry her, being but Daughter to that
page

page he heard Porrus. Whereupon the Kings request was,
that Capnio, Fawnia, and Porrus, might be murdered and put
to death: & that his sonne Dorastus might be sent home in safety.

Pandosto hauing attentiuely and with great maruell heard
this Embassage, willing to reconcile himselfe to Egistus, and
to shewe him how greatly he esteemed his fauour: although Loue
and Fancie forbade him to hurt Fawnia, yet in despite of Loue he
determined to execute Egistus Will without mercie, and there-
fore he presently sent for Dorastus out of Prison; who maruel-
ling at his vnlooked for courtesie, found at his comming to the
Kings presence, that which he least doubted of, his Fathers Em-
bassadors: Who no sooner saw him, but with great reuerence
they honoured him: And Pandosto embracing Dorastus, set him
by him very leauingly in a chayze of Estate.

Dorastus ashamed that his follie was betrayed, sate a long
time as one in a muze, till Pandosto tolde him the summe of his
Fathers Embassage; which he had no sooner heard, but he was
touched at the quicke for the cruel sentence that was pronounced
against Fawnia: but neyther could his sorrow nor persuasions
preuaile: For Pandosto commaunded that Fawnia, Porrus, and
Capnio, should be brought to his presence: Who were no sooner
come, but Pandosto, hauing his former loue turned into disdain
full hate, beganne to rage against Fawnia in these termes.

Thou disoainefull Whore, thou currish Kite, assigned by the
Destinies to base Fortune; and yet with an aspying minde
gazing after hono: How durst thou presume being a Beg-
gar, to match with a Prince? By thy alluring looks to En-
chant the Sonne of a King, to leane his owne Countrey to fulfill
thy disordinate Lusts? O dispitfull minde! a proud heart in a
Begger, is not vnlike a great fire in a smal Cottage: which war-
meth not the house, but burneth it: assure thy selfe thou shalt die:
And thou olde doating Fole, whose follie hath bene such, as to
suffer thy Daughter to reach abouts thy Fortune: Looke for no o-
ther make, but the like punishment. But Capnio, thou which
hast betrayed the King, and hast consented to the vnlawfull lust
of thy Lorde and Maister, I know not how iustly I may plague
thee: Death is too easie a punishment for thy Falshood, and to
live

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line (if not in inextinguishable misery) were not to shew the equitie. I therefore staid that thou shalt haue thine Eyes put out, and continually till thou dyest, grinde in a Mill like a brute Beast.

The feare of Death brought a most sorrowfull silence vpon Fawnia and Capnio: but Porrus seeing no hope of life, burst forth into these speeches.

Pandosto, and the Noble Embassadors of Sicilia, seeing without cause I am condemned to dye: I am yet glad I haue opportunity to discharge my Conscience before my Death: I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more then is true; whereas I am accused that I haue bene a supporter of Fawniaes pride, and shee disoayned as a vile Beggar; So it is, that I am neither Father vnto her, nor the Daughter vnto me.

For it so happened that I being a poore Shepheard in Sicilia, liuing by keeping other mens flocks: one of my sheepe straying dole to the Sea-side; as I went to seek her, I saw a little Boate driuen vpon the shoare, wherein I found a Babe of five dayes olde, wrapped in a faire Mantle of Scarlet, hauing about the Necke this Chayne: I pittying the Child, and desirous of the Treasure, caried it home to my Wife, who with great care nursed it vp, and set it to keepe sheepe. Here is the Chayne and Jewells, and this Fawnia is the Child, whome I found in the Boate: What she is, or of what Parentage I know not: but this I am assured, that she is none of mine.

Pandosto would scarce suffer him to tell forth his Tale, but that he required the time of the Peace, the manner of the Boate, and other circumstances; Which when he found agreeing to his count: Suddenly he leapt from his seate, and kissed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheeks with his Teares, and crying, My Daughter Fawnia, Oh my sweete Fawnia, I am thy Father Fawnia.

This sudden passion of the King, drave them all into a Maze, especially Fawnia and Dorastus. But when the King had breathed himselfe a while in this newe joy, hee rehearsed before the Embassadors the whole matter, and how hee had intreated his Wife Bellaria, for zealousse, and this was the Child whome he sent to stee in the Seas.

Fawnia was not more joyfull that shee had found such a Father,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

After, then Dorastus was glad he should get such a wife. The Embassadors reioyced that their young Prince had made such a choyce: that those Kingdomes which through enmitie had long time bene diuidered, should now through perpetuall amitie be united and reconciled. The Citizens and Subjects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daughter which was supposed dead, joyfull that there was an Heire apparant to the Kingdom) made Bonfires and shewes thorough out all the Cittie: The Courtiers and Knights appoynted Iustices and Turneyes, to signifie their willing mindes in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eightene dayes being past in these Princely sports, Pandosto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a Knight: which done, providing a sufficient Maie to receive him and his retinue, accompanied with Dorastus and Fawnia, and the Sicilian Embassadors: he sailed towards Sicilia, where he was most princely entertayned by Egistus: who hearing this comicall enent, reioyced greatly at his Sonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two young Louers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no sooner ended, but Pandosto (calling to minde how first he betrayed his friend Egistus, how his zealousse was the cause of Bellariaes death, that contrarie to the Law of Nature hee had lusted after his owne Daughter) moued with these desperate thoughts, he fell in a melancholy fit, and to close vp the Comedie with a Tragicall stratagme, he slew himselfe: whose death beeing many dayes bewailed of Fawnia, Dorastus, and his deere friend Egistus: Dorastus taking leave of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: where, after it was sumptuously entombed, Dorastus ended his dayes in contented quiet.

FINIS.